

REMARKS

In response to the restriction requirement included in the Office Action mailed on February 7, 2007, Applicants elect Group I, drawn to a beam-shaping optical element. Claims 1-10 and 20-22 are in this elected group.

By means of the present amendment, claims 2-10 have been amended for better conformance to U.S. practice, namely, beginning the dependent claims with 'The' instead of 'A'. Claims 2-10 were not amended in order to address issues of patentability and Applicants respectfully reserve all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

Further, by means of the present amendment, claims 11-19 have been canceled without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to reintroduce subject matter deleted herein, either at a later time during the prosecution of this application or any continuing applications.

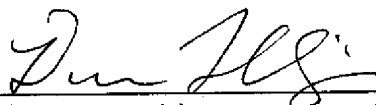
In addition, new claims 20-22 have been added. It is respectfully submitted that new claims 20-22 are in the elected group at least based on their dependence from independent claim 1.

Early consideration and action on the merits of claims 1-10 and 20-22 are solicited.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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